



UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE CENTRAL DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

June 2022 Grand Jury

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,
Plaintiff,
v.
TRISTAN VON HESSENSTEIN,
aka "Tristan VonHessenstein,"
Defendant.

CR 2:22-cr-00498-ODW

I N D I C T M E N T

[18 U.S.C. § 1708: Mail Theft; 18 U.S.C. § 1344(2): Bank Fraud; 18 U.S.C. § 1028A(a)(1): Aggravated Identity Theft; and 28 U.S.C. § 2461(c): Criminal Forfeiture]

The Grand Jury charges:

COUNTS ONE THROUGH THIRTEEN

[18 U.S.C. § 1708]

On or about the dates set forth below, in Los Angeles County, within the Central District of California, defendant TRISTAN VON HESSENSTEIN, also known as "Tristan VonHessenstein," stole, took, and abstracted mail and mail matter from and out of a letter box, mail receptacle, mail route, and authorized depository for mail matter, namely, community mail boxes located at the residential complexes set

forth below, with the intent to deprive the owners of the mail and mail matter, temporarily and permanently, of its use and benefit:

COUNT	DATE	LOCATION
ONE	December 9, 2020	3145 S. Canfield Ave. Los Angeles, CA 90034
TWO	December 10, 2020	12773 Caswell Ave. Mar Vista, CA 90066
THREE	December 18, 2020	9848 Tabor St. Los Angeles, CA 90034
FOUR	December 19, 2020	11681 Darlington Ave. Los Angeles, CA 90049
FIVE	December 29, 2020	12773 Caswell Ave. Mar Vista, CA 90066
SIX	December 30, 2020	11681 Darlington Ave. Los Angeles, CA 90049
SEVEN	December 31, 2020	9848 Tabor St. Los Angeles, CA 90034
EIGHT	January 6, 2021	36767 Vinton Ave. Los Angeles, CA 90034
NINE	March 7, 2021	5837 Village Dr. Playa Vista, CA 90094
TEN	June 17, 2021	8110 Redlands St. Los Angeles, CA 90293
ELEVEN	August 19, 2021	8110 Redlands St. Los Angeles, CA 90293
TWELVE	September 25, 2021	8110 Redlands St. Los Angeles, CA 90293
THIRTEEN	June 23, 2022	11858 Goshen Ave. Los Angeles, CA 90049

1 COUNT FOURTEEN

2 [18 U.S.C. § 1344(2)]

3 A. INTRODUCTORY ALLEGATIONS

4 At times relevant to this Indictment

5 1. JPMorgan Chase & Co. ("Chase") was a financial institution
6 insured by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation.

7 2. Victim D.G. had a Chase credit card in his name (the "D.G.
8 Chase credit card").

9 B. THE SCHEME TO DEFRAUD

10 3. Beginning on a date unknown to the Grand Jury, and
11 continuing through at least on or about March 7, 2021, in Los Angeles
12 County, within the Central District of California, defendant TRISTAN
13 VON HESSENSTEIN, also known as "Tristan VonHessenstein," knowingly
14 and with intent to defraud, devised and executed a scheme to obtain
15 moneys, funds, assets, and other property owned by and in the custody
16 and control of Chase by means of material false and fraudulent
17 pretenses, representations, and promises, and the concealment of
18 material facts.

19 4. The fraudulent scheme operated, and was carried out, in
20 substance, in the following manner:

21 a. Defendant VON HESSENSTEIN would steal mail to obtain
22 credit cards and other personal identifying information ("PII"),
23 including the D.G. Chase credit card.

24 b. Defendant VON HESSENSTEIN would use the stolen credit
25 cards and PII, including the D.G. Chase credit card, to make
26 fraudulent purchases without permission or authorization from the
27 card account holders. In doing so, defendant VON HESSENSTEIN falsely
28 represented that he was the account holder and was otherwise an

1 authorized user of the credit card account, and concealed that the
2 purchases defendant VON HESSENSTEIN made with the credit cards were
3 made without any authorized user's consent.

4 C. EXECUTION OF THE FRAUDULENT SCHEME

5. On or about March 7, 2021, in Los Angeles County, within
6 the Central District of California, defendant VON HESSENSTEIN used
7 the D.G. Chase credit card to make a purchase of \$1,472.74 from a
8 Saks Off 5th in Los Angeles, California, which constituted an
9 execution of the fraudulent scheme.

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1 COUNT FIFTEEN

2 [18 U.S.C. § 1028A(a)(1)]

3 On or about March 7, 2021, in Los Angeles County, within the
4 Central District of California, defendant TRISTAN VON HESSENSTEIN,
5 also known as "Tristan VonHessenstein" knowingly possessed and used,
6 without lawful authority, means of identification, namely, the name
7 of victim D.G. and a credit account number belonging to victim D.G.,
8 during and in relation to the offense of Bank Fraud, a felony
9 violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 1344(2), as
10 charged in Count Fourteen of this Indictment.

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1 FORFEITURE ALLEGATION ONE

2 [18 U.S.C. § 981(a)(1)(C) and 28 U.S.C. § 2461(c)]

3 1. Pursuant to Rule 32.2 of the Federal Rules of Criminal
4 Procedure, notice is hereby given that the United States of America
5 will seek forfeiture as part of any sentence, pursuant to Title 18,
6 United States Code, Section 981(a)(1)(C) and Title 28, United States
7 Code, Section 2461(c), in the event of the defendant's conviction of
8 the offenses set forth in any of Counts One through Thirteen of this
9 Indictment.

10 2. The defendant, if so convicted, shall forfeit to the United
11 States of America the following:

12 (a) All right, title, and interest in any and all
13 property, real or personal, constituting, or derived from, any
14 proceeds traceable to the offenses; and

15 (b) To the extent such property is not available for
16 forfeiture, a sum of money equal to the total value of the property
17 described in subparagraph (a).

18 3. Pursuant to Title 21, United States Code, Section 853(p),
19 as incorporated by Title 28, United States Code, Section 2461(c), the
20 defendant, if so convicted, shall forfeit substitute property, up to
21 the value of the property described in the preceding paragraph if, as
22 the result of any act or omission of the defendant, the property
23 described in the preceding paragraph or any portion thereof (a)
24 cannot be located upon the exercise of due diligence; (b) has been
25 transferred, sold to, or deposited with a third party; (c) has been
26 placed beyond the jurisdiction of the court; (d) has been
27 substantially diminished in value; or (e) has been commingled with
28 other property that cannot be divided without difficulty.

1 FORFEITURE ALLEGATION TWO

2 [18 U.S.C. § 982]

3 1. Pursuant to Rule 32.2(a) of the Federal Rules of Criminal
4 Procedure, notice is hereby given that the United States of America
5 will seek forfeiture as part of any sentence, pursuant to Title 18,
6 United States Code, Section 982(a)(2), in the event of defendant's
7 conviction of the offenses set forth in either of Counts Fourteen or
8 Fifteen of this Indictment.

9 2. The defendant, if so convicted, shall forfeit to the United
10 States of America the following:

11 (a) All right, title and interest in any and all property,
12 real or personal, constituting, or derived from, any proceeds
13 obtained, directly or indirectly, as a result of the offense; and

14 (b) To the extent such property is not available for
15 forfeiture, a sum of money equal to the total value of the property
16 described in subparagraph (a).

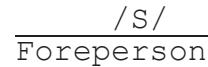
17 3. Pursuant to Title 21, United States Code, Section 853(p),
18 as incorporated by Title 18, United States Code, Section 982(b), any
19 defendant so convicted shall forfeit substitute property, up to the
20 total value of the property described in the preceding paragraph if,
21 as the result of any act or omission of said defendant, the property
22 described in the preceding paragraph, or any portion thereof: (a)
23 cannot be located upon the exercise of due diligence; (b) has been
24 transferred, sold to or deposited with a third party; (c) has been
25 placed beyond the jurisdiction of the court; (d) has been

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1 substantially diminished in value; or (e) has been commingled with
2 other property that cannot be divided without difficulty.

3 A TRUE BILL

4 
5 /S/
Foreperson

6
7 E. MARTIN ESTRADA
United States Attorney

8 

9
10 SCOTT M. GARRINGER
11 Assistant United States Attorney
Deputy Chief, Criminal Division

12 DAVID T. RYAN
13 Assistant United States Attorney
Deputy Chief, General Crimes
Section

14 SOLOMON KIM
15 Assistant United States Attorney
Terrorism and Export Crimes Section